over great mountains, and coming from it, I paſs'd over *Swartzenberg* or the Black mountain, from whence I deſcended 10. miles in a rocky Country, and farr more ſtony than the *Crau* or *Campus lapidoſus* in *Provence*; and ſo to *Aidoſchini* and *Goritia*, and leaving the *Sclavonian* behind, entred into the *Lingua Fullana*, and ſo on to this Noble and incomparably fortified City; where being yet uncertain, whether I ſhould go to *Venice*, I would not omit to preſent you this accompt, which I beſeech you to accept from *&c.*

Palma nova in *Friuli* June 15. *1669.*

An Accompt from the ſame Dr. Brown *Concerning an Vn-common Lake, called the* Zirchnitzer-See, *in* Carniola.

HAving croſs'd the River *Dravus*, and paſs'd Mount *Luibel* in the *Carnick Alpes*, by that noble paſſage, cut through the Rooks, and vaulted like that of *Pauſilype* near *Naples*, I had a deſire to take a view of the *Lake* of *Zirchnitz*, ſo much ſpoken of, and written on by ſo few; and therefore I went unto *Crainburg* upon the River *Savus*, and ſo to *Labach*, the chief City of *Carniola*; from whence I continued my Journey in *Carniola* betwixt the Hills and a great Marſh, till I came to *Brounizza*, two leagues from whence and beyond the Hills is ſeated the ſaid Lake, receiving that name from *Zirchnitz*, a town of about 300. houſes.

This Lake is near two German Miles long, and one broad. On the South-ſide thereof lyes a great Forreſt, wherein are many Deer, and wild Boares, Wolves and Bears. On the North ſide the Country is flat; but the whole Valley is encompaſſed with Hills, at ſome diſtance from it.

This Lake is well fill'd with Water for the greateſt part of the Year; but in the Month of *June* it ſinketh under ground, not only by percolation or falling through the pores of the Earth, but retireth under ground, through many great holes at the bottom of it: And in the Month of *September* it returns by the ſame, and ſo in a very ſhort time fills up the Valley again.

As the time of the waters Deſcent is ſhort, eſpecially when

the Lake grows lower, and hath for a while ſhewed ſome abatement, ſo the Aſcent and return is ſpeedy; for at theſe holes it mounteth with ſuch violence, that it ſprings out of the ground to the height of a pike, and ſoon covers the tract of Earth again.

And this piece of ground in the time of the retirement and abſence of the Water is not unfruitful, but by a ſpeedy and plentiful production of Graſs yieldeth not only a preſent ſuſtenance for the beaſts of the field, but a good proviſion of hay for the cattle in the winter.

Nor have the Inhabitants thereabout only the benefit of the ground by theſe Commodities, but alſo the recreation and profit by Hunting. For at the time of the waters abſence, Hares, Deer, Boares and other Animals come into it out of the neighbouring Forreſt and Country, and are taken ſeveral wayes by them.

The Lake is not only thus fill'd with water, but every year well ſtored with Fiſh. The Prince of *Eckenberg* is Lord of it and of much Country thereabout: But upon reſtoring of the waters all have liberty to Fiſh; and the fiſhermen, ſtanding up to the waſt at the holes before-mentioned, intercept the paſſage of the Fiſh, and take a very great number of them, which otherwiſe would be ſecure for ſome Months under the Earth, and not fail to return in *September*.

The Fiſh of this Lake have a cloſer habitation than thoſe of any other I know; for, they paſs ſome Months under the Earth, and a good part of the Winter under Ice. I could not learn, that there were any *Otters* in this Lake, (which otherwiſe muſt probably have taken the ſame Courſe with the fiſh;) nor that there were any remarkable extraneous ſubſtances, any Vegetables, or unknown Fiſhes brought up by the water, but thoſe which come up are of the ſame kind with thoſe which deſcended.

But beſide theſe holes at the bottom of the Lake (of which there are many) there are alſo divers Caverns and deep places in the Country of *Carniola*, even where there is no water; after the like manner as we have in the *Peack-country*, and at *Elden-hole* in *England*.

halfe

Halfe an Engliſh mile nearer the Lake than the town of *Zirchnitz*, ſtands a village named *Seadorf*, and neigher to the Lake than this, another village called *Niderdorf*: between theſe two there are Corn-fields; yet ſometimes theſe lands are alſo drown'd; and 'tis conceived, that there are divers ſubterraneous Caverns under them: for, it happens ſometimes at *Niderdorf*, that the ground ſinks in ſeveral places upon the ſudden retiring of the Lake; and the aforeſaid Prince of *Eckenberg* was once ſo curious, as to deſcend into one hole, through which he paſſed under an Hill, and came out on the other ſide; as I was informed by Monſieur *Andreas Wifer* the preſent Judg of Zirchnitz, and alſo by *Johanes Wifer*, who hath formerly held the ſame place.

The people, who are acquainted with the Lake, wet and dry, know where they are, and have a particular knowledge of the eminencies, vallies and inequalities of it: for, the bottom of the Lake is not even, or near about the ſame depth, but ſometimes two foot, and then ſuddenly twenty yards deep. And becauſe the Fiſh haunt the deep places more than the ſhallows; they have given names to the 7. chiefeſt cavities or valleys in the Lake.

I took boat at *Niderdorf*, and went divers miles on the Lake, paſſing over the five firſt valleys. I went alſo to a noted Stone, commonly called the Fiſhers-ſtone, which hath ſomewhat of the uſe of the *Nileſcope-pillar* at *Grand Cairo*; for by a certain appearance of that, they conjecture how ſoon the Lake will retire. I alſo paſſed by a noted Hill, which, when the Lake is high, becomes a pleaſant iſland; and ſo I returned, *&c.*

Venice June 20. 1669.